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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director of Training

DATE: 19 March 1951

FROM : Acting Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Social Science Research Council Proposal for  
Training Area Specialists

REFERENCE: Your memo dated 14 March 1951, same subject with Enclosures

## 1. General Recommendations

Although the need for trained manpower is recognized, this Office believes that the proposal of the Social Science Research Council should not be approved by CIA without modification and major changes. "Approval in principle" would imply acceptance of the board of outside academic specialists to select universities to participate in the program and students to be trained under it, whereas the inter-departmental board, proposed by the Director of Training, would give CIA greater control over the program. We therefore recommend immediate informal consultation with the Department of State, to determine what modifications have already been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget by the Department. We believe that an agreed CIA-State Department proposal, oriented more closely to the needs of the two agencies, should be presented to the Bureau of the Budget and discussed with representatives of the Social Science Research Council.

## 2. Discussion

Discussion of the proposal with our Division Chiefs has indicated strong feeling on the following points:

- a. Prospective trainees for intelligence work should first be employed by the Agency for at least an "intern" period, so that their personal ability, capacity for further training, and potential future value can be accurately assessed. Such employment would also simplify security checking of potential personnel and guidance of individual study programs. It would also further ensure that CIA would obtain the services of selected and trained personnel at the conclusion of the course. In view of the recent experience of the armed services with medical personnel trained at government expense, one cannot be certain that subsidizing the education of candidates will automatically supply trained employees.
- b. The training period should be cut to one or two years; first by the elimination of the year of travel and field work, for which should be substituted a year of on-the-job training as an overseas employee of the Agency; and second by the selection of students who have already completed a year of graduate work,

JOB NO. 1/2 FLD NO. DOC. NO. 2 NO CHANGE  
 IN CLASS X100 CLASS CLAS CHANGED TO: TS SEC RET. JUST. 22  
 NEXT REV DATE 89 REV DATE 24 FEB 1952  
 NO. PGS 2 CHA. REV DATE ORG COM 2/25/51 TYPE DOC. 02 ORG CLASS C  
 REV CLASS C REV COORD JUR. 2A 70-3

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either in language and area study or in their chosen "discipline." Elimination of the year of travel alone would reduce the estimated cost of the program by 5 million dollars.

- c. The proposed university facilities should also be used for more specialized training of employees who have already demonstrated their ability for intelligence work. We believe that shorter periods of a summer or a semester of concentrated study on either a language-area or a functional basis, would produce more qualified personnel than the usual academic program of unrelated graduate seminars "required as a preliminary for the Ph.D degree" plus language training.
- d. We believe that greater emphasis should be laid on the U.S.S.R., Asia, and Eastern Europe in the allocation of area priorities (the latter area is completely omitted from the Social Science Research Council paper) owing to the relative difficulty in obtaining qualified experts in these fields. It is not hard to find an economist with a knowledge of Western European languages and an adequate area background, nor to recruit an anthropologist with Latin American experience.

### 3. Conclusions

We concur with the proposals of the Director of Training, insofar as internal CIA action is concerned (Paragraph 7 of his reference b) but we believe the Social Science Research Council program should be thoroughly studied and considerably modified before it is approved, even "in principle," by this Agency.

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